

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

ACDA-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 DODE-00 H-02 OMB-01 /080 W

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R 210812Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1350

INFO US NATO 548

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

CINCUSNAVEUR

UNCLAS MADRID 1883

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO, SP

SUBJ: SPAIN AND NATO: PRESS REACTION

REF: USNATO 1496, NAPLES 268

1. SPANISH PRESS CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON NATO AFFAIRS, ENCOURAGED BY WHAT AT FIRST APPEARED TO BE CALL BY NATO SYG LUNS FOR SPANISH INCLUSION IN ALLIANCE, SINCE ACKNOWLEDGED BY SPANISH PRESS TO HAVE BEEN INCORRECTLY REPORTED, BUT WHICH NEVERTHELESS HAS ENGENDERED EXTENSIVE PRESS COMMENT UPON:

A. WHITE PAPER ISSUED BY BRITISH DEFENSE MINISTRY WHICH INTER ALIA REPORTEDLY MENTIONS PLANS BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM MEDITERRANEAN BY 1976.

B. CRITICISM WITHIN NATO OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF
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REDUCTION IN BRITISH ARMED FORCES, DESPITE U.K.

ASSURANCES IT WILL LIVE UP TO ITS NATO COMMITMENTS.

C. ANNOUNCEMENT BY SAUVAGNARGUES FRANCE WILL NOT RETURN TO NATO MILITARY STRUCTURE.

D. STATEMENT BY GERMAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT OFFICIAL WALTER LEISLER KIEP THAT SPAIN SHOULD BECOME PART OF NATO AND EEC.

2. IN NEWS ANALYSIS APPEARING IN FEB 20 EDITION OF BARCELONA DAILY LA VANGUARDIA ESPANOLA, BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT ANDRES GARRIGO STATES THAT DESPITE LUNS OFFICIAL DENIAL WITH REGARD TO EVENTUAL SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO, "THE DESIRE TO COUNT IN SOME WAY ON SPANISH DEFENSE COLLABORATION IN THIS ERA OF DEFECTIONS IS STRONGER THAN EVER. THE PROBLEM IS POLITICAL. DUTCH SOCIALIST GROUPS HAVE ALREADY CRIED TO HEAVEN AGAINST WHAT WAS BELIEVED TO BE INVITATION BY LUNS FOR SPANISH ADMISSION. THUS LUNS THEN INSISTED THAT THIS HYPOTHESIS LACKED REALISM. THESE GROUPS WHICH ARE SCANDALIZED BY LINKING SPAIN TO THE ATLANTIC MILITARY MECHANISM, ARE MORE TIMID AND RESERVED AFTER THE CHANGES IN PORTUGAL. APPARENTLY SOME EUROPEAN LEADERS HOPE THAT U.S. WILL PULL THEIR CHESTNUTS FROM THE FIRE. THIS WOULD BE A CRASS ERROR I AM TOLD BY EXPERT SOURCES. U.S. CONSIDERS PORTUGAL AS PRIMARILY EUROPEAN PROBLEM AND EUROPEANS WILL BE ONES TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE "PRAGUE COUP" IS CONSUMMATED. AMERICANS WILL DO NOTHING IF U.K., FRANCE AND GERMANY REMAIN PASSIVE BEFORE INSTALLATION OF MARXIST DICTATORSHIP IN PORTUGAL. NOT THAT THEY MUST LAUNCH ASSAULT ON PORTUGUESE BEACHES. IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT THAT WILSON, GISCARD AND SCHMIDT MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONDEMNING VIOLATION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES BY LISBON REGIME, WITH SAME ENERGY THAT THEY CURSE CHILEAN REGIME. THIS WOULD PERMIT FORD ADMINISTRATION TO SHOW CONGRESS THAT EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS ALSO REJECT COMMUNIST IMPLANTATION IN PORTUGAL. ONLY WITH CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT WOULD FORD BE ABLE TO PRESS BREZHNEV TO LET UP ON HIS PRESSURE ON IBERIAN PENINSULA."

3. ABC BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT REPORTED MARCH 20 THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY SOURCES IN "NATO HEADQUARTERS " THAT LUNS' UNCLASSIFIED

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JULY 1974 STATEMENT TO ABC REGARDING SPANISH MEMBERSHIP STILL STANDS. AT THAT TIME LUNS TOLD ABC INTERVIEWER THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF "DIRECT COOPERATION" BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO BECAUSE OF LACK OF ALLIANCE UNANIMITY ON SUBJECT AND LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING IT. HOWEVER, ABC CONTRASTED JULY STATEMENT WITH MORE POSITIVE TONE OF NAPLES STATEMENT IN WHICH LUNS ACKNOWLEDGED IMPORTANCE OF SPAIN IN MILITARY AND GEOPOLITICAL ASPECTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID01883
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750099-0783
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750328/aaaaayun.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USNATO 1496, 75 NAPLES 268
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2003 by greeneet>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPAIN AND NATO: PRESS REACTION
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP, NATO, (LUNS, JOSEPH M A H)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006